

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 OPR-02 SY-10 EB-11 AGR-20 AID-20 DRC-01

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P 311100Z JAN 74

FM AMCONSUL BOMBAY

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4223

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

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DEPT FOR NEA PLEASE PASS AMB MIYNIHAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PINS IN

SUBJ: SITUATION IN GUJARAT

REF BOMBAY 0252 AND PREVIOUS

1. EXCEPT FOR STONING OF POLICE PATROL, AHMEDABAD CONTINUED QUIET ON 30TH WITH SUSPENSION CURFEW FOR SIX HOURS IN AFTERNOON. THERE WERE INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE IN MEHMADEBAD (MOB ATTACKED PRES TALUKA CONGRESS COMMITTEE AS WELL STATE BANK INDIA) AND SURAT (MOB BURNED TWO STATE TRANSPORT BUSES AND STONED CAR IN WHICH FINMIN AMUL DESAI AND HEALTH MIN THAKORABHAI PATEL RIDING). PALANPUR, RAJPIPLA AS WELL BARODA AND MODASA CONTINUE UNDER CURFEW. DEATH TOLL HAS NOW RISEN TO 43 WITH DEATH POLICE CONSTABLE FROM EARLIER STONING.

2. IN ITS MEETING WITH GOI MIN PANT ON 29TH, WE UNDERSTAND GUJARAT CABINET SPLIT AND FAILED PRESENT UNITED FRONT AS HOPED
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BY CHIEF MIN PATEL. ALICE IN WONDERLAND ASPECT OF THIS

WHOLE AFFAIR REFLECTED IN GPCC PRES DARJI'S DEMAND FOR PATEL'S RESIGNATION, WHO IN TURN WANTS DARJI REMOVED. PRESS REPORTS TODAY ALLEGE HOWEVER THAT PANT HAS TOLD DISSIDENTS TO WAIT UNTIL UP ELECTIONS OVER AND PRESS SPECULATES IN WAKE PANT'S RETURN DELHI THAT CENTRE WILL STALL QUESTION OF PRESIDENT'S RULE UNTIL AFTER FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS. REFLECTING GROWING CONGRESS DISSENT, A PROMINENT CONGRESS MLA, DR. TRIPATHI, A FORMER STATE MIN AND MAYOR AHMEDABAD, HAS QUIT PARTY AND RESIGNATIONS CONGRESS CORPORATORS BARODA THIS PAST WEEK HAVE REDUCED CONGRESS MAJORITY TO ONE IN MUNICIPAL CORPORATION THERE.

3. INDIAN EXPRESS IN LEAD EDITORIAL TODAY MAKES POINT INCREASINGLY MADE BY THOSE IN POSITION GIVE CREDENCE TO IT: "THERE IS SUSPICION THAT THE DIFFICULTIES HAVE BEEN COM-POUNDED BY THE DEMANDS MADE ON GUJARAT TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE CONGRESS ELECTION CAMPAIGNS IN UP AND ORISSA. IENCESSIONS MADE TO GROUNDNUT MILLERS AND THE BIG FARMERS IN RETURN FOR ELECTION CONEHBUTIONS SEEM TO HAVE PLAYED A LARGE PART IN INTENSIFYING THE SCARCITIES." COMMENT: EDITIRIAL ALLUDES TO CHIEF MIN PATEL'S ALLEGED AGREEMENT ALLOW GUJARAT'S "OIL KINGS" TO EXPORT GROUNDNUT OIL OUTSIDE STATE IN ORDER TAKE ADVANTAGE HIGHER PRICES IN RETURN FOR ELECTION CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS. THESE EXPORTS HAVE CONTRIBUTED SHORTAGE GROUNDNUT OIL IN GUJARAT WHICH LARGEST PRODUCER AND CURRENT HIGH PRICES. BY SAME TOKEN IN RETURN FOR CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS LARGER FARMERS ALLEGEDLY WERE ASSURED NO COMPULSORY LEVIES WOULD BE APPLIED TO THEM. GUJARATI JOURNALIST NIRUBHAI DESAI IS ONE SOURCE CONFIRMING FOREGOING.

4. COMMENT: WHILE SOME IMPROVEMENT REGISTERED LAW AND ORDER SITUATION THESE PAST SEVERAL DAYS DUE LARGELY ARMY TAKEOVER THIS FUNCTION AHMEDAXRD.#POLITICAL CRISIS GUJARAT DEEPENING DUE CONTINUING GOI INDECISION WHICH UNDERMINING RULING PARTY POSITION THERE. IT APPEARS CLEAR THAT CHIMANBHAI PATEL WILL GO BUTUNCLEAR AS YET AS TO HOW THE CONGRESS HIGH COMMAND PROPOSES DEAL WITH SITUATION BETWEEN NOW AND U.P. ELECTIONS. ITS DECISION WILL LIKELY BE DETERMINED LARGELY BY U.P. CONSIDERATIONS RATHER THAN GUJARATI. DESPITE PRESS SPECULATION TO CONTRARY, WE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DOUBT IF CENTRE CAN AFFORD STALL DECISION UNTIL AFTER UP ELECTIONS.

5. WE PROPOSE SUBMIT REPORT ON GUJARAT HEREAFTER ONLY AS DEVELOPMENTS WOULD APPEAR WARRANT.
BANE

NOTE BY OCT: #TEXT AS RECEIVED. WILL BE SERVICED UPON REQUEST.

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